attack by wild animals from Rs. 20,000/- — Rs. 1,00,000/-. The compensation in case of grievous injury is 1/3rd of the amount fixed for cases of death/ permanent incapacitation.

(c) The amount reimbursed to the States/Union Territories towards compensation for loss of human life and injuries caused by wild animals during the last 3 years is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	1997-98	109.15
2.	1998-99	70.10
3.	1999-2000 (till date)	105.79

Timber Mafia operating in North-East

1715. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of timber mafia have been operating in North East who are indulging in illegally felling of forest trees;

(b) if so, what is the number of such persons apprehended during the last three years, along with the quantum of woods illegally cut by them; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of Senior Forest Officers are also involved in these rackets and if so, what is the number of such officials so far identified and the action taken against each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) In view of large scale deforestation and illegal felling in the North-Eastern States, Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 15.1.1998 directed North-Eastern States to identify forest divisions where significant illegal fellings have taken place and initiate disciplinary/criminal proceedings against those found responsible. Hon'ble Court also directed that all timber will be transported from North-Eastern States through Railways under strict supervision of Forest Department. On receipt of information, Ministry has detained 177 wagons of the timber transported from North-Eastern States for physical verification. The verification reveals that

large scale illicit wood has been transported from North-Eastern States in grab of illegal timber. Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided to constitute a multi-disciplinary team to probe into the matter. .

New Population Policy

1716. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Members of the Mahila Swasth Sangh (MSS) are doing a good work in rural areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government utilise their service for implementation of the new population policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government intends to secure the involvement of all voluntary women's groups, especially those functioning at the grasroot level like Mahila Swasthya Sanghs, for the implementation of the National Population Policy 2000.

LADD technique for back disc pain

1717. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new technique called Laser Assisted Disc Decompression (LADD), is now being introduced by doctors of New Delhi Hospitals for treatment of lower back disc pain in place of the conservative treatment including strong pain killers, rest and physiotherapy and ultimately surgery; and

(b) if so, what are the views of Government or new technique, its adoption and popularisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The technique called Laser Assisted Disc Decompressions (LADD) has not been introduced in Central Government Hospitals, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Hospitals of NDMC, MCD and Government of NCT of Delhi.

(b) The Laser Assisted Disc Decompression (LADD) is not an alternative to conservative treatment. LADD system is considered only in cases of failed